



Macomb County Community Services Agency

21885 Dunham Road, Suite 10
Clinton Township, Michigan 48036

TDD: (586) 469-6999 fax: (586) 469-5530 website: www.co.macomb.mi.us/mccsa

Frank T. Taylor, Director

MCCSA is a "Community Action Agency" dedicated to families and individuals seeking to improve their quality of life.

Press Release

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For Immediate Release

Contact: Julie Hintz
MCCSA Communication Specialist
(586) 469-6999

Macomb County Head Start employees honored with "Hands Up Award"

Clinton Township, Mich. — Macomb County Head Start staff members **Cheryl Vario** and **Jennifer Hopps** were honored this summer with a Michigan Head Start Association Hands Up Award. The award recognizes Head Start employees who have demonstrated exceptional abilities and an outstanding attitude toward their jobs and Head Start in general.

The Michigan Head Start Association (MHSA) determines the winners of the award. The awards were presented at the MHSA/Michigan Community Action Agency Association Joint Summer Conference on July 22, 2003.

- Jennifer Hopps, of Warren, first encountered Head Start as a parent with children in the program. While volunteering in the classroom, Jennifer "caught" the Head Start bug. After her children were in elementary school, Jennifer worked as a teacher aide, but her ambition was to become a teacher. She lived up to that ambition and has now been a dedicated teacher for seven years. In addition to teaching, she continues to be active in many aspects of the Head Start program through special events, conferences, research, and committees.
- Cheryl Vario, of St. Clair Shores, began with the Head Start program as a teacher aide. She then completed her Associates degree in Early Childhood Education through Macomb Community College and became a teacher for Head Start. While the children and families adored her as a teacher, Cheryl wanted to do more for the families in the program. In one year, Cheryl completed her Bachelors of Science in Early Childhood Education and left the classroom to become a Family Service Coordinator in the main Head Start office. As a Family Service Coordinator, Cheryl has done an outstanding job. She headed the Fatherhood Initiative Committee and increased fatherhood involvement in Head Start by 54% in one year. She has also begun several collaborations and events.

Head Start is a comprehensive preschool program for three and four year olds from income eligible families. There are classrooms serving children throughout Macomb County. The program is **free** to families who meet federal guidelines. For more information, please call the Macomb County Head Start office at (586) 469-5215. Applications are accepted year-round.

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Administration (586) 469-6999

Chore Services (586) 469-5012

General Community Programming (586) 469-5222

Head Start (586) 469-5215

Home Preservation/Energy (586) 469-6329

Macomb Food Program (586) 469-6004

Senior Citizen Nutrition (586) 469-5228

Transportation (586) 469-5225



Programs and services are sponsored by the Macomb County Board of Commissioners and State and Federal grants. MCCSA complies with the Civil Rights Act of 1964, the Michigan Handicappers Civil Rights Act, and the American with Disabilities Act of 1990. To inquire about reasonable accommodations for persons with disabilities please contact MCCSA, Phone or TDD: (810)469-6999.